

providing first and second perimeter framing members holding first and second panels, respectively, one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprising a plurality of drainage holes, the plurality of drainage holes being in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region;

passing a terrestrial fluid at a first velocity through a gap between a capillary break on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members and an opposing surface of the other of the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members;

passing the terrestrial fluid at a lower, second velocity in a circulating chamber defined by a rear surface of the capillary break and walls of the first and second perimeter framing members;

collecting the terrestrial fluid in the circulating chamber; and

passing the collected terrestrial fluid through the gap and into the terrestrial environment.

21 54. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 53, further comprising:

passing the terrestrial fluid at an input velocity through an inlet portion of a recess formed by the first and second perimeter framing members and a front surface of the capillary break and wherein the first velocity is more than the input velocity.

22 55. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 54, wherein a lower surface of the circulating chamber slopes downwardly in the direction of the inlet portion and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break.

Please add the following new Claims 56-103:

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56. (New) A wall system, comprising:
- at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;
- at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and
- a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded.
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57. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the recess has a downwardly sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface, and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

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58. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

59. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

60. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along a common axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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61. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

62. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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63. (New) The wall system of Claim 56, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

64. (New) The wall system of Claim 59, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

65. (New) The wall system of Claim 57, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

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66. (New) The wall system of Claim 65, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

67. (New) A wall system, comprising:

at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;

at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with an interior region and discharge moisture located in the interior region into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

a capillary break positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and located between exterior surfaces of the first and second panels and the drainage holes, whereby entry of terrestrial fluids into at least one of the plurality of drainage holes is impeded.

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68. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the capillary break and walls of the recess define a circulating chamber and further comprising a gutter located in the interior region, wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into the exterior environment.

69. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the recess has a sloped lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break.

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70. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

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71. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

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72. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along a common axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

73. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

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74. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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75. (New) The wall system of Claim 67, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

76. (New) The wall system of Claim 71, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

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77. (New) The wall system of Claim 69, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

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78. (New) The wall system of Claim 77, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

79. (New) A wall system, comprising:

at least a first perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a first wall panel;

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at least a second perimeter framing member configured to hold opposing interior and exterior surfaces of at least a second wall panel, wherein the first and second perimeter framing members engage one another, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members defines a recess relative to exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a plurality of drainage holes, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, and wherein the gutter collects and

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Claim 1 provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region for discharge into an exterior environment located exteriorly of the first and second perimeter framing members and first and second wall panels; and

15 capillary break means positioned on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members for redirecting flow of terrestrial fluids, wherein the capillary break is spaced from the plurality of drainage holes and, along with surfaces of the recess, defines a circulating chamber operable to impede entry of terrestrial fluids into the interior region.

80. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the recess has an inclined lower surface to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break means.

81. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein a first space between a free end of the capillary break means and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary break means and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

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82. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein, at any location along the capillary break means, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

83. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along a common axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break means is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break means to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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84. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein a surface of the capillary break means adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

85. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break means ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break means and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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86. (New) The wall system of Claim 79, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break means is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

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87. (New) The wall system of Claim 82, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

88. (New) The wall system of Claim 80, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break means is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break means.

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89. (New) The wall system of Claim 88, wherein the capillary break means has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

90. (New) A method for retarding the entry of terrestrial fluids into drainage holes, comprising:

providing first and second perimeter framing members holding opposing surfaces of first and second panels, respectively, at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members comprising a plurality of drainage holes, the plurality of drainage holes being in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region, wherein at least one

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of the first and second perimeter framing members comprises a capillary break operable to
10 pass a terrestrial fluid at a first velocity through a gap defined by a free end of the capillary
break and a surface of the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members,
wherein the first and second perimeter framing members are configured to define a
circulating chamber operable to pass the terrestrial fluid at a second velocity that is lower
than the first velocity, wherein at least one of the first and second perimeter framing
15 members comprises a plurality of drainage holes for draining terrestrial fluids, and wherein
the circulating chamber and plurality of drainage holes are located on a common side of the
capillary break; and

mounting the at least one perimeter framing member to at least one structural member
of a structure.

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91. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein the recess has a sloped lower
surface contoured to permit terrestrial fluids in the circulating chamber to flow along the
lower surface and into the exterior environment and wherein an adjacent edge of a nearest
drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches from the rear surface of the capillary break.

92. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein a first space between a free end
of the capillary break and an opposing wall of the recess has a first vertical cross-sectional
area and a second space between opposing walls of the recess at a point between the capillary
break and the plurality of drainage holes has a second vertical cross-sectional area and the

5 second vertical cross sectional area is at least about 150% of the first vertical cross sectional area.

93. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, an adjacent edge of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.25 inches from a rear surface of the capillary break.

94. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein the centers of the plurality of drainage holes lie along a common axis and wherein a distance of the drainage holes above a free end of the capillary break is at least about 125% of a distance from the free end of the capillary break to an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

95. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein a surface of the capillary break adjacent to the plurality of drainage holes is concave and wherein the first and second wall panels each is a composite of metal and plastic.

96. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are spaced at regular intervals along the at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein a height of the capillary break ranges from about 125 to about 200% of a distance between a free end of the capillary break and an adjacent, opposing surface of the recess.

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97. (New) The method of Claim 90, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on one of the first and second perimeter framing members and the capillary break is located on the other of one of the first and second perimeter framing members.

98. (New) The method of Claim 93, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially horizontal surface.

99. (New) The method of Claim 91, wherein the plurality of drainage holes are located on the first perimeter framing member and the capillary break is located on the second perimeter framing member, wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located on an at least substantially vertical surface, and wherein the openings of the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.

100. (New) The method of Claim 99, wherein the capillary break has a height and is separated by a gap from the first perimeter framing member and the height is at least about 100% of the width of the gap and wherein exterior surfaces of the first and second wall panels are at least substantially parallel and coplanar.

101. (New) A method for inhibiting passage of terrestrial fluids from an exterior environment into a drainage hole, comprising:

providing first and second perimeter framing members holding opposing surfaces of first and second panels, respectively, at least one of the first and second perimeter framing

5 members comprising a plurality of drainage holes, the plurality of drainage holes being in fluid communication with a gutter located in an interior region behind the first and second panels and the first and second perimeter framing members, wherein the gutter collects and provides to the drainage holes moisture located in the interior region;

causing a terrestrial fluid to pass at a first velocity through a gap between a capillary break on at least one of the first and second perimeter framing members;

causing the first velocity of the terrestrial fluid to drop to a lower, second velocity in a circulating chamber, the circulating chamber being defined by the capillary break and surfaces of the first and second framing members;

causing collection of the terrestrial fluid on a sloped lower surface of the circulating chamber; and

causing drainage of the collected terrestrial fluid through the gap and into the terrestrial environment.

102. (New) The method of claim 101, wherein the first and second panels are each a composite of metal and plastic.

103. (New) The method of claim 101, wherein, at any location along the capillary break, a distance between a rear surface of the capillary break and an opening of a nearest drainage hole is at least about 0.75 inches and the plurality of drainage holes are located above a free end of the capillary break.